

From: Brett Sher
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/21/02 1:36pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

Microsoft has been found to have an illegal monopoly of desktop computer operating systems.

This monopoly gives them the power to expand into other areas beside operating systems (Internet browsing, media delivery, electronic commerce, etc.). Microsoft's obvious stranglehold inhibits investors from supporting other companies which would seek to offer alternatives to Microsoft technologies. This is bad and inhibits innovation.

Microsoft's omnipresence is also a source of vulnerability to computer viruses (a common platform is easier to corrupt). America needs software diversity to protect itself against cyber attacks.

Any settlement must be designed to eliminate Microsoft's desktop monopoly, and not be just a slap on the wrist. Even if today Microsoft was forced to drop the underhanded tactics and fight fairly in the marketplace, they would benefit from an overwhelming advantage gained by years of bullying, bundling, dumping, lying and intimidating. Microsoft must be severely hobbled until a healthy competitive market can reemerge.

Be tough.

Brett Sher
808 Gale Drive
Campbell, CA 95008